

ARTIST HOFFBAUER HOPES TO FINISH MURALS HERE

Has Not Forgotten Battle Abbey Commission, He Writes From Trenches.

SAYS FRANCE WILL TRIUMPH

Describes Devastation Wrought by German Artillery and Fearful Loss of Life—Is Now Attached to Artillery Formation.

"Somewhere" in France on the far-flung battle front, Charles Hoffbauer still remembers his half-finished murals in the Battle Abbey and wonders when he will be permitted to return to Richmond to complete his work.

In a letter to Hunsdon Cary, of this city, the French artist speaks with hope of the ultimate success of the French arms, but deplores the fearful cost at which it is being purchased. The letter is dated July 14, the anniversary, as the writer points out, of the storming of the Bastille.

"I believe indeed that France will come out of this awful war more grand and glorious than ever," writes Mr. Hoffbauer, "for, of course, we shall be victorious. But what a terrible onslaught! What a fearful trial! I wonder how we will be able after the war to meet the conditions of our economic and commercial situations and the reconstruction of so many cities and villages. You cannot imagine what modern artillery can do in the way of destruction. Holes as big as houses, twenty feet deep and wide in proportion. Nothing is left but rubbish. And worse than all material losses, our men—all our men—one after the other, all of them they go to their graves. All around we see cemeteries as large as cities."

GENERATION BETWEEN TWENTY AND THIRTY-FIVE DISAPPEARS

The generation between twenty and thirty-five will almost disappear. Every day in the morning, the women in black Verdun cast us an awful lot of our best soldiers. But we must stand it—and we will against all odds! Already, thanks to the resistance of Verdun, we can see the dawn of victory and the first signs of the German defeat. It will be a grand sight and passing of the soldiers through the Champs Elysees under the triumphal arches."

"As for me, I have had until now wonderful luck. You know that I have been in the trenches six months and a painter at the Etat Major during the 1915 summer—but since, I went back to a regiment of infantry as sergeant with our young 1916 class. Now I belong to a new formation—I am in the artillery, but not as a gunner. My business is to take the batteries from serial observation. We have a good many tricks to deceive the 'Boches.' It is very interesting, and most useful, too—besides, it is not so dreadfully dangerous as to charge the machine guns of the Germans as I was expected to do a few weeks ago. I didn't go to Verdun. If I had been there as a sergeant of infantry I probably should not now be writing to you."

The artist inquires after the welfare of his many personal friends in Richmond, assuring his correspondent that he has forgotten not a single one of them nor his unfinished work at Battle Abbey. Of his commission here he says:

"I am thinking of it all the time, putting aside all kinds of observations. I have had many opportunities to observe dead men, dead horses and ruined houses!"

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Boys' and Girls' HOSIERY

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Fine and heavy ribbed, strong, 12½c just the thing for school wear; worth 19c, but marked special now for pair, 12½c. **Boys' and Girls' Hosiery:** the kind that will wear well and give the best satisfaction; fine and heavy ribbed; worth 25c. Buy a good supply at 10c pair..... 10c Weisberger's Street Floor.

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With belt to match, tan or

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